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MINUTES
of the
FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE LINKS

Hotel Lafayette, Buffalo, New York

June 18, 19, 20, 1953

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
June 19, 20, 1953, Buffalo, New York

The Fifth National Assembly convened in the Lafayette Hotel, Buffalo, New York at 10:30 a.m., June 19, 1953, with Sarah Scott, National President, presiding.

The chaplain for the Assembly, Sadie Elam offered the following prayer, "O, Merciful Father, we thank Thee for this day. We thank Thee for having brought us together again at this meeting of The Links. We thank Thee Merciful Father for everything that you have done for our organization and ask Thee dear Lord above to be with us."

Mrs. Alice Hayes, president of our hostess chapter introduced Mr. Byrd from the mayor's office who gave the official welcome to Buffalo.

Mr. Byrd: Madam president, chaplain, other distinguished associates at the speaker's table and delegates to your fifth National Assembly of the Links, Inc.: May I say at the very outset that this is somewhat of an unusual and a very enviable position for me to find myself in. I am the only man in this room. And it is an unusual circumstance when a man finds himself before so many distinguished women in the speaking position. I would like to have you rest very much assured that at home I probably don't get to say many things. But seriously speaking, I'm very happy on the behalf of the great City of Buffalo, which as most of you know, is the second largest city in the State of New York, to officially bring to you this morning at the opening of your fifth national convention the very warm greetings of the mayor of this great city and the some 680,000 people who make up our population. I should like to say that we feel that we have one of the most important and one of the most friendly cities in the whole United States of America. We all live here in a very friendly and an amicable way and we are made up of representatives of all the great races, all the great national origins and all the great creeds on the face of the earth. I understand, somewhat unofficially that this is the first time you have graced the City of Buffalo with your presence as a national unit. I might say, on the behalf of the city, that we're very happy to receive you and we know that your sessions and your convention in general will be productive of many, many great advances in the area in which you work. I understand that you have dedicated and devoted your units to the development of a very good amicable and public relations among all of us. I can think of no more laudible objective and aim to follow through the various sessions of your organization. I hereby officially open this convention and I am sure that it will be a very, very fine one and do come back some time.